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A Second RETURN to the LETTER OF A NOBLE PEER, Concerning the ADDRESSES.

My Lord,

THE Favour you conferred upon me, to permit me to write to your Honour, with a condescending Invitation, occasioned that of *March* the 4*th*. directed to your hand; in which, my Thoughts of the numerous *Addresses* seemed to me so plainly set down, that no Mistake could ensue: yet it hath otherwise happened, and your Answer, although not altogether differing from my Expectation, is not wholly such, nor so ingenious, as I expected. I could have wish'd, that as you printed the Answer, you had with it published my Letter, which gave the Occasion, that if any Knowledge of the Persons between whom this Intercourse is used, should give the World occasion to repeat our Names, and descant upon our Judgments, I might not appear, after so much resolute Constancy, now dotish and fluctuating.

But for your whole Discourse, *Noble Peer*, I must be plain in telling you, that not I, but the Likeness of it to that Speech you made in the *House*, which being published, the *Hangman* committed to the Flames, hath publish'd you the Author: And you do so mince this *Association*, and turn and wind it so tenderly, that it seems your own Projection, and a Brat so taking in your Affections, that every *Abhorrence* of it is a Daggers point at your Heart. You are much in Labour to have it believed never to have a Being, thinking that way to secure it from the zealous Abhorrors, and yet at every other turn, your Fondness of it makes you break out into Commendations of it's pretty Features and Usefulness. Indeed, your Shiftings shew you have something of a debauch'd Modesty left, and that you are ashamed of what you so much love; my Willingness to excuse what will bear it, saith this of you: but the Generality cry out upon your Impudence, in saying, *An Association pretended to have been seized in the E. of S's Closet*, when nothing was ever more exactly proved, nothing more unquestionable and free from dispute, nothing more defended by that Lord's *Clientage*, and even owned in the *Court* by two of his *Compurgators*, (for they acted such more than *Jury-men*) who looking upon it, said, *This is the same with that which we saw produced, and promoted in the House of Commons*. And by the way, you may take notice what Justice was like to be done the *King*, when his Cause was in the hand of Persons guilty of the same Conspiracy; for, should they have found the *Bill*, they had directed the *Attorney General* to draw up one against themselves; as truly it is to be lamented, that they and all others should escape free from Punishment, who in the *House* saw and promoted this damnable *Plot* of *Association*, and did not so discover it, as to have the *Projectors* and *Forwarders* rewarded with their merited *Rope*. The Authors of such *Parliamentary Proceedings* ought to have their Heads advanced to the House-top, to admonish their *Successors* of *Modesty* and *Allegiance*.

But to return; Your Title, at the first sight, made me merry with the Remembrance of your *Lordship's* and that *Religious Party's*, you so diligently served, accustomed Activity, that out-run their Sagacity, *laying open* dangerous *Plots* and *Designs* before they were *detected*. As your *Lordship* hath been frequently termed a *Catt*, from your noted Skill in falling safely, so you further merit it from the Apology of the *Catt* changed into a beautiful Woman, receiving a Change only in Form not in Conditions. You are by the exceeding Greatness of Royal Favour, raised to very great Riches and Honour, not only out of a mean Fortune, but (pray pardon my Plainness and necessary Freedom) an ill State (as you are too conscious) that merited Severity: yet all *Indulgences*, all immerited Additions of Lustre and Fortune, cannot alter you, but you must be *Catting*, still playing your old Tricks, *laying open* before *detecting*. Your Wit hath, like *Galba's*, very unseemly Lodgings, and is no other than what may be conjectured to proceed out of so ill contrived a Frame, mischievous and unlucky: it serveth to no eminent Counsel, but to impose upon the silly and credulous Multitude, who adore you as some Idolaters are said to choose and worship their God, for it's excellent Deformity. No Man who makes a just and serious Inspection into these *Addresses*, seeth any thing but what becomes generous and loyal Subjects, whom the Sense of their own Duty, and the odious Practises of Men of your Principles, stir up to these Expressions of Fidelity on their own part, and a most reasonable Abhorrence and Detestation of the others.

And now, because it is an Answer to my Letter, you lay upon me the Task of enquiring what this Monster which you have rip'd up and laid open, is. You

You begin to tell me, that the *Fermentation* which the Nation is put into, muſt be cherish'd by the ways that firſt occaſioned it, and that the *Romiſh* Deſigns againſt the *Proteſtant Religion* and *Liberties* of *England*, would miſcarry, if the Heats and Animoſities between *Proteſtants* were not artificially tomented. Here the Tale you tell of the *Romiſh Deſigns* is ſo exceedingly ſtale, that it ſtinks abominably, and is rejected by moſt of the apprehenſive Diſſenters and Factious Party, who ſee it in vain to talk any more at that rate, the Generality of the Nation being cured of thoſe Fits which the affrightful Noiſe of *Popery* put it into. For, as ſoon as honeſt and quiet Men hear any begin to blutter thoſe fuſty Diſcourſes, they leave them as men tainted and ruſty, Tools (as you call them) to your Trade of *Proteſtant Joynery*. And the Truth is, you all ſo torment and ſaw what you take in hand to poliſh, that it's great pity the *Maſters* of the Company are not hanged for Company, with the *Journey-man*. It's time indeed ſome end were put to the Lunacy the Kingdom hath been afflicted with, and I hope we may conclude it wrought, or near effecting, ſeeing the greateſt part of what you ſtile *diſtracted* are recovered, and you are found not Lords of the Aſcendent Predominant over Affections, but Witches and Juglers that have held men under ſome ſhort Surprizal, but are deliver'd by *Divine Providence*, Preſident at the Council-Table. Even they who commend you do not believe you, and the reſt will never truſt you: Neither have you ſhot your Bolt any thing near the Mark, in ſaying, the Operation of the *Declaration* againſt the two laſt Parliaments being wholly ſpent, this againſt the Aſſociation is ſlipt in, and managed to *perpetuate Rancours*; for your ſelf (I fear to your Grief) find the contrary, both that the Efficacy of the *Declaration* is not ſpent, but hath produced this briſk and genuine Off-ſpring, the natural Iſſue of ſo incomparable a Conjunction as the *Peoples* Affections, anſwering their *Prince's* Condeſcenſion and Love; and that it is ſo far from foſtering Animoſities, that it is the moſt certain Bond of Union that could ever have been framed; a *League* indeed *offenſive and defenſive*, not as your ſquinting Loyalty and unmannerly Compariſon would make it ſeem, between the *Prince* and a *Faction*, but between the *King* and all his *Subjects*, who conſcientiouſly reſpect their own duty, and the general Welfare. We never think or call that a Faction, which, compelled by the *Fear of God, honoureth the King*; but you, who of all Men living, have the greateſt Provocations to admire and love regal Clemency and Bounty, do moſt wretchedly, after all the ſtricteſt Engagements to Loyalty, *turn back like a Dog to his Vomit*, and are pleaſed no otherwiſe, but during your Reſpect to that vile *Excreſcence of Government*, which hath been ſpued out and abhorred, as your beloved Aſſociation is now, chiefly for it's Tendency toward the ſame.

After you have made a Citation of a Loyal Gentleman's words, you will needs inſinuate from them, a parity of His moſt Excellent Majeſtie's, and that baſeſt of Uſurper's *Oliver's* Cauſe, and do in effect deride all that out of Devotion worſhip the true God, becauſe ſome, out of Fear or Illuſion, have worſhip'd the Devil. Uſurpers, conſcious to themſelves what Hatred their ambitious and tyrannical Invaſions merit, ſtudy Popularity, and are forc'd to fawn upon the worſt of men, whom they intereſt to impoſe upon others, and always rule by Arts contrary to the Preſcriptions of Legal and juſt *Monarchy*; They either affright or corrupt men to obſequious acknowledgments; Theſe, with Majeſtical, but Gracious Countenance, receive the due Tributes of voluntary Obedience, and encourage Fidelity, to the ſhame and terrour of ſuch as aſſociate and conſult by their *Kings* to diſturb the Publick Peace. Becauſe ſome unduely flattered *Oliver*, (once your Maſter) therefore you will allow none to give our Lawful *King* thoſe proper Eulogies and Thanks which his wiſe and excellent Government challenges from all, whom God hath bleſſed with Judgment to ſee and rejoyce in their happineſs by and under him.

But this, with your Lordſhip, is *a baſe and deſtructive Deſign*: a ſtrong Affirmation, which you would have received, although you have forgotten to tell us the Reaſon. And ſo in truth you have the Senſe which ſhould direct us to what you mean, in ſaying, *It would have been ſome Argument of the Addreſſers Candour, and ſincerity of their Intentions, in what they did before, if they had forborn their late Applications, till they had found that they were not miſtaken in the grounds upon which they think to vindicate themſelves for what they then did.* Something your Lordſhip did here conceive, but being ill Midwiv'd, is ſpoil'd in the production. As to what you ſaid a little before, you are as unfortunate in your expreſſions and reaſoning. For theſe *Addreſſors* are not ſick of your Lordſhips Megrims and diſtempers of Brain, that giddily rave and anticipate the Fruits of Royal Counſels before maturity. They, as all brave Spirits, are bleſſed with Humility, and meddle not with the *King's Prerogative*, neither take upon them to inſtruct him when a *Parliament* will be moſt ſeaſonably called, but leave it to his Wiſdom, from which, by God's bleſſing upon it, they hope to reap the ſatisfactory Effects of theſe and their former *Addreſſes*, while your Lordſhip and your Factious Adherents ſhall ſit in melancholick poſtures, and enviouſly aſſiſt your tormenting Angels in your own vexation.

How

How you call Mr. *Groyn*'s Oath *a bare ſuggeſtion*, I underſtand not; neither what credit you gain by ſaying this *Aſſociation was, for what appears, only feigned and imaginary*. Thoſe few words upon this account before ſpoken, may (I think) ſuffice; for all your ſcrupulous artifice will neither cover nor colour that Villany. You may as well call in queſtion, Whether that *Noble and Loyal Peer* was accuſed and indicted, as whether that Paper was ſeized in his Cloſet, or any where promoted by *Aſſociators*; you may as well queſtion, Whether that Lord ever was *Lord Chancellor*, and afterward made good his own words in his Speech to L. *Treaſurer*, and found His *Majeſty a Prince under whom the unfortunate fall gently*; Whether afterward in the Houſe of Peers he made any Speeches in oppoſition to a certain ſtrict Teſt for the diſcovery of Popery, promoted in that Houſe; Whether he was ſince at *Oxford*, and afterward committed to the *Tower*?

Your Lordſhip thinks it congruous, that the *Addreſſors* teſtifie their deteſtation of the many *Sham-Plots*, whereby Loyal and innocent Proteſtants have been endeavoured to be deſtroyed; and what is more evident, than that they do this, abhorring both the *real* and *Sham-Plots*, which bold and bloody-minded Factions, under the name (forſooth) of *Proteſtants*, were engaged in, to the deſtruction of the *King*, *Religion*, and *Government*? This you are fierce and zealous to have done, yet being done, you diſlike and complain of it; and what's the reaſon, but becauſe while you cry out of *Popiſh Plots*, and *Popiſh Sham-Plots* onely, theſe *Addreſſors*, the true Friends of the *Proteſtant Religion*, and Peace of theſe Kingdoms, ſee you involved in the ſame Plots which you cry out againſt,—and engage to defend the *King* and eſtabliſh'd *Religion* againſt all Conſpirators whatſoever, whether Popiſhly, Sciſmatically, or Heretically affected?

But when all of you make ſuch a dinn about *Proteſtants*, and name the *Proteſtant Religion*, why do you not ſet forth what this *Proteſtant Religion* is, that we may know it before we engage to defend it? The Religion eſtabliſh'd in the *Church of England* we are ſure you would deſtroy, not preſerve; for this the Addreſſors promiſe and deſire to preſerve, which promiſes onely give you theſe Galls and Diſturbances. Neither will you own the *Preſbyterian* to be the onely *Proteſtant*, nor with the *Preſbyterian* the *Independent*, for then the other younger Brethren, *Anabaptiſt*, *Browniſt*, *Quaker*, *Fifth Monarchy man*, and all the reſt of this large Family, will take it very ill to be rejected as Spurious, and unprovided of *Proteſtant Portions*. If you take all into your politick Ark, whether feathered or naked, cloven-footed, clawed, or hooſed, this Conjunction will make *England* in the next Generation, ſurpaſs any part of *Africa* for monſtrous Iſſue, when thoſe of *Baxter's*, *Vincent's* and *Jacomb's* holy Proteſtant Herds, ſhall mingle with *Proteſtant Muggletons*, *Proteſtant Quakers*, *Proteſtant Ranters*, and your Honour's, which is *Proteſtant Atheiſts*. Conſidering then, the impoſſibility of ſuch pretended Union in different Opinions, knit together in one Band of Religion, and yet, that if any one or more Part or Opinion be rejected, the Project is that way inconſiſtent with what it throws out, and would ſeem, becauſe there's a Rupture made with the *Muggletonian* or *Ranter*, or whomſoever this *Holy League* receives not, who yet hath as good a title to that *Vocabulum* of *Proteſtant*, as *Jack Preſbyter*, *Jack of Leyden*, *George of Munſter*, or *Hugh Peters*, when he came from *New England*. So that in time I find the League hits not upon the ſcore of Religion, but all theſe are *Proteſtants*, as proteſting againſt *Monarchy*, and the whole preſent frame of Government; and that can no otherwiſe come under one name of *Proteſtant*, than by joyning with it the word *Rebell*; and then *Proteſtant Rebell* ſpeaks all the Parties together, *Preſbyterian*, *Muggletonian*, *Anabaptiſt*, *&c.* being as the Colours of Yellow, Tawny, Green, *&c.* by which the ſeveral Regiments are to be diſtinguiſhed. And theſe, you think meet, the City of *London* ſhould lead the way to addreſs for their Protection, until they may conveniently be (as is aforeſaid) united and formed into a Body that can defend and ſet up for it ſelf. But your Lordſhip is ſtill unfortunate, adviſing impertinently; for the *City*, ſeeing the *Deſign*, hath, in the Lord *Mayor* and *Lieutenancy*, taken a truly ſafe, commendable, and contrary way to your preſcription, and ſo have bid your Honour good Night, wiſhing you to ſleep for more wit.

And when *Parliaments* ſhall, inſtead of Endeavours to perfect the important matters of the Kingdom, ſit down and ſpin out more time in doing nothing, than other *Parliaments* have taken to diſpatch Multitudes of Affairs, or rather, in doing nothing but chalking out unwarrantable Rules for the Subject to grow licentious, and act as in an authorized Diſobedience, What Reaſon is there, that good and peaceable Men ſhould not make to their *Prince* grateful Addreſſes, for his Care of them, in diſſolving ſuch *Parliaments*, and ſcattering the impending Miſchiefs which threatned Ruine to our Univerſe? As an Anniverſary day of Thankſgiving for our Deliverance from the ineffable Calamities we ſuſtained by that trayterous Convention, called a *Parliament* aſſembled under K. *Charles* the Firſt, whom they deviliſhly perſecuted, unking'd and murthered, is appointed upon the day of his *Sacred Majeſty* now reigning his Birth, and happy Return; it ſeems to me as reaſonable, that thoſe days, whereon his *Majeſty ſecured the Liberty of the Subject*, by diſſolving the laſt *Parliament*, be kept Feſtival, in Commemoration of *our Deliverance from thoſe great and apparent Dangers, wherewith we were compaſſed*, while they were in Seſſion.

Neither are all *Aſſociations*, (as either your Nine-eyed Peruſal reads, or your diſtorted and grieved Fancy interprets them) abhorred in any of theſe Addreſſes, which deteſt only thoſe two Diabolical ones, the firſt, of *the Solemn League and Covenant*, and this ſeized in the E. of *S*'s Cloſet,

&c. but are themselves pious and Loyal *Associations, excellently adapted* (to use your Words) *for the Preservation of his Majesties Person and Dignity*, and the *Protestant Religion*, now by Law established. But for your so justly *abhorred Association*, which you would insinuate, was to have had the Royal Stamp, pray tell me where and when those audacious *Ruffians* (who would not allow their King in the Management of his setled Revenues, the Priviledge which the meanest Owner of a Chattel Lease hath, in the disposal of it) did agree and consent more than in the taking the Covenant to ask the King's Leave and Liking? Or rather, tell me whether you would not first have taken it, and have afterward, upon the Point of a Spear, tendered it to him for his Approbation and Stamp, at *Holmby* House, the Isle of *Wight*, or *Hurst Castle?*

How strangely (you say) it looks, that the Mayor of *Gl.* who is recorded to have done Service against *Ch. Stewart*, at *Worcester*, should now be hugged for advancing these Addresses! From a Person of good Credit I am assured, that this *Gentleman*, now *Mayor* of *Gl.* was in those times, with all the Family, expelled that City, because Persons of known Loyalty. But if it be as you say, it is not so strange to see deceived men undeceived; which happening, none are wont to be more zealous Maintainers of the *Cause*, which they once opposed. But it may be, you reflect on him, and the eminent Magistrate in the City of *London*, by reason of the Opinion received by many, That Rebellion is never truly repented of: But 'tis a Mistake; for although it be rare, yet we have seen divers Eminent Persons, great in the Rebellious times, far greater in the *King*'s; as Col. *J. B.* and *D. L. H.* one of the five Members, yet since a Privy Counsellor, and Ambassador, entrusted with the weightiest Affairs of the Realm; and above all, the E. of *S.* whose Riches, Honours, and Trusts, were almost unaccountable: yet, to say these were not *Men of Principles acting uniformly, but swayed by Interest, & ready to engage with the same heat in every thing that lieth in Subserviency to their Gain:* What is this, but to upbraid those pious, great, and wise Ministers of State with Insincerity, which must be an Inlet to all Villany and Corruption; which for you to think, or me to say, were a Crime never to be expiated. Therefore, if nothing in Mens Actions and Manners doth appear, but what speaks them obedient, all good Men will rejoyce at their Conversion, notwithstanding the affrightful Blackness of their former Transactions.

As for your Brethren and Fathers of your Protestant Corporation and Interest, discourse them as you please at your own Leisure. But while your Zeal to the former Times transport you, no wonder you mistake Men and Business, and dream all things transacted after the *Usurper*'s Mode, as if the Country-Gentlemen, Grand-Jurors, and chief Burgers of Corporations in these days are like your Upstarts, who were indeed mere Tools, and must be managed like Puppets, ere they could squeek a pitiful Address to those Fables of Authority. And then, you, mentioning the different Opinions of the *Papists* in our days, from those in Queen *Elizabeth*'s Reign, in the Cause of Succession, make we wonder at your either Error or imposing Confidence, if you either believe or would persuade others to believe the whirling *Zealots* have not a Papistical Rule and Method for all they do and say: and change Sense and Language as they are taught from *Rome*. You now all along say expresly the same which they then; but the Doctrine introduced under the Title of *the whole Clergy, Nobility, Gentry, and Courtiers Arguments*; concerning the Succession of *Mary* Queen of *Scots*, is wholly false: for, whereas some of the *Puritan Gang* (which then began to be somewhat in esteem with Religious Time-servers) did preach up, and throw forth such Discourses as you mention, yet was it far from the Sense of the *Clergy* or sincere *Statesman*, who would not alter from the Pattern of Loyalty set before them, and sealed with the Blood and Sufferings of those who drew it, in the Case of Queen *Mary*'s and the Lady *Jane Grey*'s Title to the Crown: Tho' they saw the Danger, yet they had learned to believe in, and relye upon the *Divine Providence*, which takes Care for the Safety of the *Church* and blesseth it chiefly, when the *Governours* thereof renounce the *Refuge* of *Indirect Politicks*.

And then, what a Story you tell of *Associations* in Queen *Elizabeth*'s Time? Which had they been entred into, without her Consent, and of such a Draught as this abhorred one, which you so much dandle, no *Ignoramus Jury* should have rescued the Abettors and Concealers from the Gallows. And yet you presently destroy your own rare Tale in the following Paragraph, by prating where the King should reign, even *in the Hearts of his People*, which you would suppose he doth only of those who subscribe these Addresses, *An inconsiderable parcel of Men* (you say) *if compared with the Bulk of Nation*. Pray my Lord, tell me, whether the Subscribers in Queen *Elizabeth*'s time were a tenth part of the Number? Yet were they a joyful Guard to her, who having their hands, was assured of the rest of inferiour Ranks, who were under the Subscribers Command. And whereas you pretend these *Addresses* do proclaim the Weakness of the Government, you are out in that Note upon the Text; for, they most certainly magnifie it, rendring it glorious abroad and at home, in the Eyes of all, who wish the Prosperity of it, being also a disheartening to it's Enemies, whether Forreign or Domestick. Nothing can be imagined more to encrease the Honours of Esteem towards him in our Neighbours Affections, than to see the Readiness of the King of *Great Brittain*'s Subjects throughout the whole Kingdom to assert the Royal Prerogatives, and give such hearty Engagements to defend his *Majesties Sacred Person, Crown and Dignities*, the *Religion* by Law established, and the Right of *Succession*: which last, is no less Reputation abroad and at home, than the former, because all Disputes and Heart-burnings concerning his Successor, disturbing his Peoples Affections make him unsafe, and frequently proves of as ill Consequence to any Prince, as if his own Title were in Controversie; but that, setled and undubitable, strengthens his Power, and blunts the sharpest Edge of Malice against that *Prince* that hath such a Revenger of any his Reproaches or Injuries. And when the Heads and principal Members of all Counties, Cities, Towns, and other Corporations, do with so filial a Respect purge themselves of all sinister Designs or Intentions towards the Crown, either in the present Fruition or future Inheritance, and out of the Ardency of honest Affections, abhorr all such vitiated and rotten Members as you and others, who are, and have been versed in indirect and disloyal Practises, not only Forreign Malignity, but yours is hereby shattered in pieces, and you, who pretend you tremble at others, are in an Agony with the Thoughts of this and the cooperating Stings of Conscience.

What your Lordship mentions concerning the *Portugal King*, is Forreign to the Matter discours'd, and more ridiculously introduced, than I should a Petition that your Honour as a Reward for your Oratory and Manners should be sent to the House of Correction.

To conclude, seeing your Lordship so great a Counsellor and fortunate Statesman, as never to be believed or loved, never to attain it's ends, but still, because your Mind's more Changling than your unsightly Body gives us to suppose, and alway knowing, that you never thought Truth but as the Devil did Scripture, to corrupt the Holy to Apostacy; our own Searchings having caused us strongly to confide in his R. H. the D. of York's Loyalty, and unparalleled Love of his Prince, his untainted Candor and Sincerity towards all who faithfully resolve their Duty and Allegiance, your forming such terrible Dangers to the King *and* Kingdom *by his Authority and Succession doth sufficiently secure us from Fear: For, were there any real Danger imminent, you would never discover it, it being impossible but you should have an Hand in it. And this Giant Popery, as it is magnified by your Opticks to us, is but a Dwarfe: How much prone he may appear to some, when the Sun from off your Munkey Shoulders, I cannot tell, and leave you to the Tryal; whom I desire to* [illegible] *not to be any thing hastily exercised, because I hope it may prove beneficial to your Honour, and if so, it is the same to*

Your Lordships very

Friend and Servant. &c.

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